

November 1st, 2013



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Court remands 23-year-old for killing businessman

OCTOBER 30, 2013 BY SAMSON FOLARIN 2 COMMENTS

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A 23-year-old man, Saturday Oseghale, has been remanded in prison custody for allegedly killing a Lagos-based businessman, Charles Ugwu, 53, by hitting him on the chest with a stick.

Oseghale was arraigned before an Ebute Meta Magistrate's Court on a single count of murder.

PUNCH Metro had reported on October 16 that the deceased was killed after he refused to give money to area boys while offloading some goods to his warehouse.

Ugwu was reportedly removing tyres from a truck into his shop on the said date, in the Ajegunle area of Lagos when he was accosted by the street urchins, who insisted on being "settled".

The late Ugwu was said to have resisted them, demanding a basis for the extortion.

This was said to have angered one of them, who quickly grabbed a stick with which he allegedly struck the businessman on the chest.

The victim reportedly slumped on the floor, clutching his chest in pain.

Ugwu did not survive the attack as he died soon afterwards.

Two of the culprits- Oseghale and one Chimezie- were reportedly arrested for the crime.

However, only Oseghale was arraigned when the matter was brought to court on Friday.

The charge read, "That you, Saturday Oseghale, on September 26, 2013, at about 8.30pm, at Uzor Street, Ajegunle, Lagos, in the Lagos Magisterial District did unlawfully kill one Charles Ugwu, aged 53 years, by hitting him on the chest with a stick."

The prosecutor, Frank Inah, said the offence was punishable under Section 221 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, Nigeria, 2011.

The defendant's plea was not taken.

Inah applied that the defendant be remanded in prison on the strength that Oseghale was identified by eyewitnesses at the scene of the incident.

He said, "Moreover, pursuant to Section 264(1) of the Administration of Criminal Justice of Lagos State, the defendant should be remanded in prison pending legal advice from the office of the Directorate of Public Prosecution."

The magistrate, Mr. A.O Komolafe, ordered that the defendant be remanded in prison for a minimum of 30 days permitted by law.

The matter was adjourned for the DPP's advice.

n@s@g_ n October 18, 2013, a patrol team of Operation Thunder Storm, acting on a tip-off, arrested Egbenayaloben (a.k.a Ebo), Igiemwin and Iyekepelor. These men had earlier escaped arrest on April 9, 2013, when troops of Operation Thunder Storm raided stores at No. 4, Jegede Lane, off Lagos Street, Benin City, Edo State.



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"It was established that the suspects used the sales of building materials as cover to perpetrate their illicit business of arms selling. They have confessed to the crime."

Egbenayaloben told *PUNCH Metro* that he sold weapons and cartridges to people in Benin City, adding that he normally got his supplies from one Abiola, at Onitsha market, in Anambra State.

Igiemwin, in his confessional statement, also admitted to being in the business of arms dealing for years. He also said he was being supplied by one Eugene, at Onitsha Market. Also known as External Oga Na Master, Iyekepelor is said to be the alleged kingpin of arms and ammunition dealers in Benin City.

Other items recovered from the suspected criminals included one AK 47 rifle, three AK 47 magazines, one long barrel gun, one pistol, 6, 965 live cartridges, 266 rounds of 5.65mm ammunition, 14 empty cases of 7.62mm (special), nine FN magazines, one police fragmented jacket, 16 GSM phones, five extra GSM phone batteries/one GLO SIM card and two handbags.

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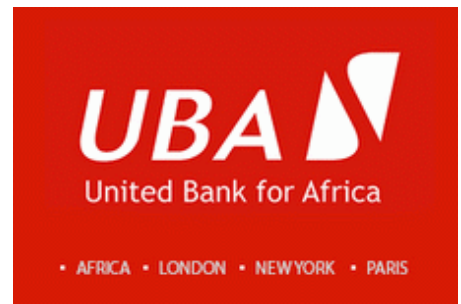
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